

The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the Ends thou Aims't at, be thy Country's, thy God's and Truth's."

THE TRUE SOUTHRON, Established June, 1866

Consolidated Aug. 2, 1881.

SUMTER, S. C., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1897.

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The Watchman and Southron.

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—BY—

N. G. Osteen,
SUMTER, S. C.

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No More War.

DISTINGUISHED MEN FAVOR ARBITRATION.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26.—A very distinguished audience representative of influential, social and religious elements of the national capital filled the grand opera house at 4 o'clock this afternoon "to attest their approbation of the great principle of international arbitration as embodied in the treaty between this republic and Great Britain now pending in the senate."

The Hon. John W. Foster, ex-secretary of state, who called the meeting to order, pointedly disclaimed any purpose of criticising or seeking unduly to hasten action of the senate. He said he recognized the senate as a co-ordinate branch of the government. He closed by saying: "I venture, however, to say, speaking for myself, that the final action of the senate will not be such as to defeat the treaty which is desired by the great majority of the people of the United States, and whose defeat would discredit this government in the eyes of the civilized world."

The outcome of the meeting was the unanimous adoption of a resolution declaring that "believing this treaty to be a distinct advance towards the best civilization, and trusting that it may prove a helpful example for other nations, we shall hail with joy and patriotic pride its confirmation by the senate of the United States."

Mr. Gardner G. Hubbard was the presiding officer. Prof. B. L. Whitman, of Columbia university, made some pointed remarks about two diseases prevailing in American social life, one known as "anglomaniac" and another disease, largely political in its character, known as "anglophobia." He claimed that anglophobia was as unreasonable as anglomaniac was ridiculous.

Ex-Senator John B. Henderson formerly of Missouri, now of Washington, delivered a vigorous address in support of the general principle of arbitration in which he incidentally criticised the tone of President Cleveland's Venezuelan message and asked if arbitration was good for England and Venezuela, why not good for England and the United States. Speaking of the objection that the Monroe doctrine might be involved in this treaty, he said: "Let the Monroe doctrine be placed in the crucible of human reason. If we may claim under it at all, our demands must be settled either by arbitration or by war."

At considerable length he argued in favor of arbitration as the only rational mode of settlement. It was reserved to Associate Justice Brewer of the United States supreme court to rouse the meeting to its highest point of enthusiasm. The chilly winds blowing through the wings of the unwarmed theatre caused overcoat collars to be turned up and handkerchiefs to be tied over bald pates and shivers to pass around, but Justice Brewer's witty and eloquent remarks caused even the inclemency of the weather to be forgotten.

Justice Brewer, who was introduced as the president of the Venezuelan commission began by saying that when he received the request of the committee to take part in the proceedings and was assured that the speeches would be limited to five minutes, he came to the conclusion that all he would have to do would be to stand up and be counted in favor of arbitration because according to his experience, no lawyer could say what he had to say under two hours. So he came here to be counted in favor of the arbitration treaty. "When I say that," continued Justice Brewer, "I do not want to be considered as one who would trespass upon the prerogative of the senate to make a careful canvass of every line of that treaty. I appreciate fully the words of the senator of Massachusetts (Mr. Hoar) so recently uttered in protest against pressure for indecent haste. I do not believe in saying to the gentlemen charged with the duty of considering carefully that treaty that 'you must vote it.' There is something in my own nature which when

anybody says to me 'you must,' causes something to run up my spinal column which says 'I won't.' (Applause and laughter.) It is the senate's duty to consider that treaty carefully, and when I say it is no trespass upon their rights for American citizens to express their views of that treaty. And I am sure there is no one who will more cheerfully accord that right to the senior senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Hoar) whom we delight to honor. In spite of all the intimations I see in the press, I believe that the senate will not declare itself 'in favor of the law, but against its enforcement.' They will act upon it with the desire to do the best for the interests, not alone of this country, but of the world. (Applause.)

"I know judges make mistakes," continued Justice Brewer. "Having been on the bench many years, I know it is dangerous to submit grave questions to such a tribunal, and if I could see here one of my brothers with whom I have been associated for two years (referring to Justice Harlan, one of the Bering Sea arbitrators), I think I could illustrate that at his expense. (Laughter.) But then, what are the errors and losses incidental to arbitration compared to the horrors of war? (Applause.) What are a few million dollars of wrongful damages in comparison to the sacrifices of thousands of human lives?"

Justice Brewer in his peroration brought down the house by a brief but dramatic poem on "lost opportunities," which, to the surprise of many of his hearers, he said had been written by his fellow citizen, ex-Senator John J. Ingalls of Kansas. He declared, in ringing tones, his opinion that the United States had now an opportunity which if once lost might never be regained.

Great Conflagration.

Million and a Half Dollars Lost in Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 26.—The fire which started at 6.45 this morning from an over-heated oven in the basement of the 6-story iron building, 1309 to 1317 Market street, burned over the block bounded by Thirteenth, Juniper, Market and Filbert streets, destroyed or gutted 60 buildings and consumed property valued at \$1,500,000. Many small storekeepers lost their all and several thousand working people were thrown out of employment. The damaged buildings were generally fully insured. The fire was the worst that has been experienced in Philadelphia in a generation. The scene of the destruction was located in the very heart of the city. Many of the properties destroyed, especially on Thirteenth, Juniper and Silver streets, the latter a small thoroughfare running between Market and Filbert streets, were small old fashioned dwelling houses and aside from the loss to the tenants, their destruction will probably be to the ultimate good if new and more modern buildings are erected on their sites. Surrounding this section are many handsome wholesale stores and on the south side of Market street, directly opposite which the fire raged furthest, is located the famous general store of ex-Postmaster General John Wanamaker. Though on fire time and again, and while the frontage on Market street was badly damaged, the store was saved from destruction. To the west of the fire, but separated from it by the great width of the street and pavement at the great pile of white marble buildings used as the city hall. Beyond the cracking of some of the plate glass windows by the intense heat, the hall escaped unscathed.

While there were a number of minor casualties among the firemen, no one was very seriously hurt, but one death is chargeable to the fire. John A. Felt, a bookkeeper in the employ of a business firm in the vicinity, dropped dead from heart disease produced by the excitement attending the fire.

The building at 1209 to 1317 Market street was occupied on the upper floors by the umbrella manufactory of Hirsch Bros. They also occupied the lower floor of 1309 as a sales room. Dennett's eating cafe occupied two other rooms on the ground floor and the western room of the building at 1317 Market street was occupied by Hanscomb Bros., grocers.

Spartanburg, Jan. 26.—Yesterday afternoon a freight train wreck occurred at the bridge on South Tyger river on the Charleston and Western Carolina railway. The train, made up of empty coal cars, was crossing the bridge when the middle span fell in precipitating a number of cars into the river below. The engine and several cars had crossed in safety when the trestle gave way so fortunately, none of the crew were injured. The unknown tramps, who had been seen riding on the trucks of one of the cars, are supposed to have been killed. The accident was caused, presumably, by one of the cars getting off the trucks and striking against the bridge.

Free Food And Fuel

Stored in the Police Stations in Chicago.

CHICAGO, Jan. 26.—Bitterly cold weather aggravated by wind, continued to afflict the poor people of Chicago to-day and make the lot of those more fortunate at least uncomfortable and attended with danger from frost bites. At midnight to-night the official record was that of three successive days of temperature below zero and in the double figures most of that time, too. The most cheering information that can be given by the weather bureau as to the future is that the tendency to moderation manifested after noon to-day will probably continue tomorrow. It is not so cold, about zero, and the cold wave may slowly decrease during the day.

The day began with the mercury showing 14 degrees below zero, falling to 16 by 6 o'clock this morning. At noon the weather moderated to 9 degrees and from that time until 4 o'clock the mercury continued rising. It was stationary at 4 degrees for several hours after that hour, but fell slowly late to night as usual.

An unknown man was found frozen to death on the outskirts of the village of Tinley park, near Blue Island, on the Rock Island railroad this morning. James McCormick and George Gerutz, telegraph operators, were found at an early hour near together on Wells street with their hands frozen. Many less severe cases of freezing were reported during the day from the police stations and drug stores, where most of the victims took refuge. The cry of want of heat, food and clothing has been answered by a general and generous contribution of money, food and clothing.

The mayor's special subscription fund reached nearly \$10,000 this afternoon. Subscriptions are coming from outside the city and many thousands of dollars worth of supplies were received from citizens in lieu of such donations. The whole available police force was utilized day and night to ascertain the needs of sufferers and distribute the relief in patrol wagons and ambulances. It is estimated that 15,000 persons have been given enough food, fuel and clothing to keep them from extreme suffering since the mayor's proclamation was issued. Mayor Swift said more distress has been found among the poor and absolutely destitute than had been expected and the demands made for help were becoming so great that it might become necessary for him to appoint special committees to collect additional funds among the business men of the city. Every police station has been made a storehouse for coal, beef, beans, peas, coffee, flour and meat. The starving poor were brought to the stations and given a liberal allowance with an invitation to call again when the supply was exhausted. The most numerous cases of acute suffering came from South Chicago and Grand crossing. The officials and employees of the Postal Telegraph Cable company made up a fund of \$2,000. The ignorant fear of many foreigners prevents them from seeking the extended relief at police stations.

Derailed by Ice.

BROOKLYN, Jan. 28.—The ice and snow, with an open switch, was the cause of an engine and one car of the Brooklyn Elevated railroad to leave the structure at Fulton and Bradford streets to-night, falling to the ground, a distance of 25 feet. Several persons were injured as well as the car and engine being entirely demolished. Two persons, it is said will die.

Sunk at New Orleans.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 28.—The Norwegian steamship Albert Dumois and the steam yacht Argo collided in mid river near Eads this morning at 12.35 o'clock, and two reporters, members of The Picayune's staff, were probably drowned, as nothing was seen of them after the rest of the party on the Argo crawled into a little boat from the sinking yacht. The Dumois laid by and searched for the missing men for more than an hour after picking up the boat, but nothing was seen of them. Nine persons, including the crew, were aboard the Argo. The names of the missing reporters are H. B. Blessine, Harrison Hester. The latter is a son of Secretary Hester of the Cotton exchange. It is believed he was asleep in the cabin of the yacht, the shock not awakening him, and went down with the vessel. The collision is unexplained.

Spartanburg, Jan. 27.—A negro named Mandy Hunt and her two children were burned to death in their home near this city about 3 o'clock this morning. The house caught fire while they were asleep and the three inmates perished before assistance arrived.

Journalism in South Carolina

The Sumter Portion of a Paper Read Before the State Press Association by Mr. Yates Snowden, of Charleston.

To the Editor: The enclosed paper on the history of journalism in Sumter County is sent to you for publication, agreeable to a resolution of the South Carolina Press Association. Corrections and additions are invited from any of your readers familiar with the subject. It is but fair to say that I am indebted to Mr. Hubert G. Osteen for nearly all the facts given.

YATES SNOWDEN.

Between the years 1830-33 two papers were published in Sumter. One, Union in principles was edited by Maynard D. Richardson, son of Judge John S. Richardson, the other advocated Nullification and was edited by John Hemphill, who afterward went to Texas, and became Chief Justice of the State and United States Senator. The fierce fights, political and otherwise, of that period of Sumter's journalism are worthy of a carefully prepared monograph. It is a fitting subject for the facile pen of Mr. Hubert G. Osteen, who has furnished nearly all the data for this sketch. Editor Richardson was but twenty years of age. Some idea of his abilities may be gathered from an examination of that rare little book, the "Remains of Maynard D. Richardson." In one of the fierce street fights Hemphill, the nullifier, was pulled from his horse and had to draw a knife to defend himself. As the result of a political controversy Mr. Hemphill fought a duel with a Mr. Levy who, like Mr. Bruffey of the Atlanta Constitution in our own times, left the field of honor minus one thumb. In after days Mr. Hemphill became prominent in the affairs of Texas. On his tombstone in the cemetery at Austin his services are commemorated, and he was proud to call Jefferson Davis a personal friend.

About 1844 George W. Hopkins published for a short time a small sheet, the Sumter Gazette.

On November 6th, 1846 the first number of the Sumter Banner was issued. It was a six column folio, published by W. J. Francis; the name of the editor is not given.

A. A. Gilbert and John F. DeLorme began the publication of the Black River Watchman on April 27, 1850. T. B. Fraser, a judge under the Hampton regime, and J. Witherpoon Ervin were the editors. In 1855 the Banner was absorbed by the Black River Watchman and the name of the latter was changed to "The Sumter Watchman." The firm was then for a short time Gilbert & Richardson—A. A. Gilbert and John S. Richardson, the one time Congressman from Sumter District. Later in the same year H. L. Darr bought an interest in the paper. This firm continued until 1865, when H. L. Darr withdrew and the paper was continued by Gilbert and Thomas E. Flowers, with whom he became associated. In 1858-1865 the Sumter Watchman had a tri-weekly edition with a large circulation. The Watchman had a large circulation in ante bellum days in five or six counties, extending as far up as Lancaster.

From the close of the war to 1876 the Watchman was published by A. A. Gilbert and by the firm of Gilbert & Flowers. From 1876 to 1881 it was published by a succession of persons, beginning with Guignard Richardson and John J. Dargan. The paper had gone down greatly in influence and on January 20, 1881, it was purchased by N. G. Osteen and C. C. Brown. In August, 1881, the Sumter Watchman was consolidated with the True Southron by N. G. Osteen, who had been interested in the True Southron since 1866. This ends the history of the Sumter Watchman. After Mr. A. A. Gilbert sold the Watchman in 1876, he entered the South Carolina Conference, and remained an itinerant preacher until his death eight or ten years ago. Mr. Gilbert was born in Walterboro, Colleton County. His parents were from the North, his father being from Massachusetts and his mother from New Jersey.

In June, 1866, H. L. Darr, previously associated with the Sumter Watchman, established the Sumter News. On September 21st, 1866, N. G. Osteen purchased a half interest in the Sumter News. F. J. Moses, afterward Governor, was the first editor. He was succeeded by T. W. Dinkins and L. B. Gay, both dying while holding the editorship. On November 6, 1871, Wm. G. Kennedy became editor and continued in charge until July 15, 1875. His successor was John J. Dargan, who assumed the editorship March 2, 1876. During Mr. Kennedy's editorship the name of the paper was

changed, on August 14, 1873, to True Southron. In January, 1881, Mr. Darr sold his interest in the True Southron to W. D. Blanding. About the same time N. G. Osteen purchased an interest in the Sumter Watchman and on August 2, 1881, the two papers were consolidated. From 1881 until 1891 the Watchman and Southron had a succession of editors, Proprietor Osteen remaining in control. The editors were D. B. Anderson, W. D. Blanding, J. A. Mood, W. F. Rhame, W. J. Beard, W. J. Ingram and Mark Reynolds. In August, 1891, Hubert G. Osteen assumed editorial control and is still at his post. The policy of the paper has always been in accord with the principles of the proprietor, N. G. Osteen. Strictly and uncompromisingly Democratic, in Reconstruction days the True Southron was, perhaps, the foremost exponent of "Straightout" Democracy in the State and by reason of that stand it obtained an unusually large circulation for a country weekly. At one time during the editorship of W. G. Kennedy, the paper gave the Republican ring so much concern that an agent was sent to Sumter with \$4,000 in cash, which he offered to Darr & Osteen on condition that they discontinue the publication of the paper for one year, they to retain the outfit.

The offer was rejected and the fight continued with a bitterness that has never been surpassed in the newspaper annals of this State. "Some of Mr. Kennedy's editorials," says Mr. H. G. Osteen, "are unique, and I have never seen anything at all like them." Mr. Shirley C. Hughson is of much the same opinion as Mr. Osteen, as regards the exonerating qualities of Mr. Kennedy's editorials. The paper is still conducted according to high journalistic and ethical standards.

From 1857 to 1859 or '60 W. J. Francis and J. F. DeLorme published the "Sumter Dispatch."

"The Banner of Freedom," was a freak or sport in the annals of journalism. It was published—a single issue—on April 10th or 11th, 1865, by Gen'l Edward E. Potter, U. S. A., when he and his raiders had control of Sumter. It was printed in the Sumter Watchman office by soldier-printers in Potter's command. After printing the single issue of the "Banner of Freedom"—which Luis J. Emilio, the historian of Potter's Raiders calls "a loyal edition of the Sumter Watchman"—they threw all the type into pi and wrecked the old Washington Hand Press. This old press is still capable of doing good work.

In 1881 immediately after the True Southron and Watchman were consolidated two new papers were established; the Spirit of the Times, by C. H. DeLorme, and the Sumter Advance, by H. L. Darr & Parmelee. The Spirit of the Times changed hands several times within a few years of a not very prosperous existence and was then removed to Manning by H. L. Darr, Jr., where it became the Manning Times.

The Sumter Advance was published continuously by H. L. Darr until his death, about eight years ago. He was succeeded by H. L. Darr, Jr., who published it until the latter part of 1892, when it was sold to S. A. Nettles, who changed the name to Sumter Herald, and after a few months sold out to Knight Brothers, who now successfully conduct the paper.

In 1890 John J. Dargan and Edwin F. Miller established the Freeman, as a Reform organ. Mr. Dargan retired in 1895 and the paper is now published by Edwin F. Miller.

On October 15, 1894, the Daily Item was established by Hubert G. Osteen as a four column folio. It was later enlarged to its present size, a five column folio.

For a few months in 1894-5 the Journal of Progress, a negro weekly, was published in Sumter, of which the Rev. C. C. Scott was editor.

There have been fully a half dozen papers published in Bishopville within the last 15 years. The "Enterprise," "Eagle" and "County Banner" were among the unsuccessful ventures. The Mirror was the last candidate for public favor.

Two papers have been published at Mayesville.

Among the most prominent men identified with newspaper work in Sumter County may be mentioned; H. L. Darr, who was longer in the business than any other man save N. G. Osteen. Mr. Darr was a native of Charleston and learned his trade in Columbia. He was a

practical printer and a good business man, a Democrat of unswerving principle and a type of the old time printer, publisher and editor. He died about 1887 or 1888.

N. G. Osteen is a native of Sumter County. He came to the town when 13 years old, and entered the office of the Sumter Watchman to learn the trade under Gilbert & Darr. He served five years as an apprentice and was then sent in 1860 to Conwayboro, Horry, to run a paper for his employers. This paper, the Horry Dispatch was, discontinued by the war. He then went to Columbia and worked during the entire war in the government printing office, printing Confederate money. After the war he went to Charleston and served under T. G. DeFontain in the office of the South Carolinian. In 1866, the South Carolinian having gone by the board, he came to Sumter and bought an interest in the Sumter News. He is now at 53 years of age, actively engaged in business as proprietor of the Watchman and Southron and printer of the Daily Item. He has been longer engaged in the "art preservative of all arts," than any other man ever in that business in Sumter County.

FILES.

Sumter Banner 1844-64—Two bound volumes in the possession of a lady of Sumter.

In the Fall.

His chair looked comfortable enough. Solid and softly cushioned, it looked luxurious enough for a Sybarite, but from the uneasiness he displayed it seemed as though the cushions might be stuffed with pins and needles. Seldom at rest for a moment, he leaned now this way, now that; frequently shifting his legs, he crossed and uncrossed them rapidly, like the comic lover dear to the gallery who wishes to delicately insinuate diffidence. Now he would stealthily rub a prominence in his anatomy, and then he would make surreptitious dabs with his restless hands at various parts of his person, and whenever he thought he was unobserved he would desperately squirm and screw himself about in his clothes. Occasionally, when he did manage to remain quiet for a minute, his face settled into the firm, determined expression of a martyr resolved to endure unspeakable tortures. His most violent contortions always occurred when she was apparently not looking at him, but all his movements were characterized by slyness. He evidently was doing his best to conceal them from her.

But she saw and noted every one of his erratic actions. They puzzled her. He usually so calm, so respectful, to behave like a nervous child under restraint! What possible explanation could there be? Then her heart whispered the answer.

Then she fell to pitying him. Poor fellow! if he only knew how she longed for him to speak, what a temptation leap year was to her, how easily it could all be happily settled. But why didn't he speak? Had he no nerve at all? The suspense began to wear upon her, and she, too, became nervous and the conversation almost stopped; their thoughts were otherwise occupied. Oh, why didn't he ask it? The strain became unendurable.

"Jack!" she screamed springing to her feet and clasping her hands until the knuckles turned white; "Jack! say what you have to say! What is it? What are you thinking of?"

"Excuse me; I thought you didn't notice, he replied, striding up and down the room, widely wiggling his shoulders. "The fact is I can't think of any thing but these confounded winter underclothes I put on to-day. They're scratching me crazy!"

Did You Ever

Try Electric Bitters as a remedy for you troubles? If not, get a bottle now and get relief. This medicine has been found to be peculiarly adapted to the relief and cure of all Female Complaints, exerting a wonderful direct influence in giving strength and tone to the organs. If you have loss of Appetite, Constipation, Headache, Fainting Spells, or are Nervous, Sleepless, Excitable, Melancholy or troubled with Dizzy Spells, Electric Bitters is the medicine you need. Health and Strength are guaranteed by its use. Fifty cents and one dollar at J. F. W. DeLorme's Drug Store.

Lamp shades when artistically made of crepe tissue are things of beauty. If you want to make shades to beautify your homes, H. G. Osteen & Co. can supply the materials. A large stock of crepe tissue in ten foot rolls just received.

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